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leads him to state that pure cultures of lactic microbes taken into the system will successfully destroy the intestinal flora which prove so destructive through the putrefaction developed by them.

The book is a splendidly clear analysis of the subject and presents the views of the author in a definite way, gratifying to those who are accustomed to the hopeless labyrinths of argument and reasoning in the average scientific book. The work is suggestive and should it lead, as it doubtless will, to a careful study and solution of the problems arising out of senility, it will mark an epoch in the control by man of environing conditions. To the economist, no problem to-day is more real than the problem of maintaining efficiency and reducing the death rate of those who would otherwise be rendering great service to the community. The author's biological interpretation leads to at least one very possible remedy.

SCOTT NEARING.

University of Pennsylvania.

O'Shea, M. V. *Linguistic Development and Education.* Pp. xviii, 347.
Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1907.

Several concrete subjects, studied inductively, furnish the major portion of the material contained in this book. The method followed has been that of observing "a child from the beginning of expressive activity on until he acquired a mastery of his mother tongue in its vocal and auditory forms," and endeavoring "to determine what psychological principles were illustrated in this development." Suitable comparisons with the work of others along this line are included.

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with "Non-reflective," the second with "Reflective processes in linguistic development." Beginning with experiences of discomfort, the subsequent stages of mental development are carefully traced—particularization, reaction to environment, spontaneous vocal activity, comprehension of the parts of speech and of proper word order, as well as of inflection.

Part II, which studies the child in his incipient school life, besides being analytic, is in a large measure didactic in purpose, and throws much light on our educational psychology. The teaching of reading, the use of definition and methods of learning spelling are discussed. The chapter on "Development of efficiency in oral expression" is of special interest and value. It examines the various methods of training in efficiency, notes their advantages and defects, and makes pertinent suggestions for further improvement. Of almost equal interest is the discussion of the "acquisition of a foreign tongue." The lessons which Europe has for us in this respect, although already known to us, are emphasized here, and their commendation by this able author will, it is hoped, aid in the revision of our system of instruction.

With the exception of several chapters, including those enumerated, the book will be read chiefly by specialists. The style, however, is forceful and agreeably simple. The reader's task in the study of the book is further

simplified by an analytical table of contents and by short summaries at the conclusion of each chapter.

GEO. B. MANGOLD.

Washington, D. C.

Poor, Charles Lane. *The Solar System.* Pp. x, 310. Price, \$2.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The character of this book is most clearly stated in the words of the author's preface, "An attempt was made to present the subject in untechnical language and without the use of mathematics, to show by what steps the precise knowledge of to-day has been reached; and to explain the marvelous results of modern methods and modern observations." The book therefore assumes a double character; for the student it becomes an unusually attractive text of both general and historical character; for the lay mind it represents the most readable exposition of the solar system yet published.

Most of the interest in the volume will naturally center round the discussion of Mars and its canals, topics which receive relatively more space than strict proportion would allot. The author fully justifies this action, however, by the admirably clear and forceful way in which he handles the much debated question. After carefully following the analysis of evidence for and against the existence of great and elaborate canal systems on our neighboring planet, no one could fail to agree with the conclusion that the objective reality of the canals has not yet been unquestionably established.

Frequent well-chosen illustrations add to the value of this volume which can be most highly commended both as a text-book and as a general exposition of the most important of astronomical phenomena.

WALTER SHELDON TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Russell, Charles Edward. *The Uprising of the Many.* Pp. xxiv, 364. Price, \$1.50. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1907.

To the student of twentieth century democracy, this is a fascinating book. Mr. Russell has journeyed around the world, and has viewed, with the eyes of a journalist and socialist, what is newest in the age-long war against want and misery and oppression. First come co-operation and municipal trading in Great Britain; then a report on government railroads on the Continent, combined with a slashing attack on our system of private ownership. The interesting political and economic experiments of the vigorous Swiss democracy occupy the next three chapters. Plague, famine and pestilence in India, presented in some appalling figures, are credited, not to Malthus, but to autocracy and to the caste system which, we are warned, springs up wherever there is great power in the hands of a few men. The chapters on Japan are illuminating, punctuated as they are with this often-repeated warning of the yellow peril: "She has a government that does not hesitate to supplant individual with government enterprise, and she has a